

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, December 20, 2007
Neatby-Timlin Theatre

Attendance: See Appendix A.

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm, and declared the meeting properly constituted with respect to quorum.

Condolences were expressed by Professor Bob Tyler on behalf of Council to family and colleagues of Dr. Arthur Sumner, Professor Emeritus, Department of Microbiology and Food Science. Professor Sumner's career with the department began in 1968, and he retired in 1987. He passed away November 14, 2007.

Following a moment of silence, the business of Council resumed.

Dr. Fairbairn noted that this will be his last meeting as Chair of Council, as he has submitted his resignation as Chair, effective December 31, 2007, to take up the role of Provost, an appointment which begins July 1, 2008. The Council will be seeking a new chairperson; a call for nominations has been sent out. The Secretary outlined the process and timelines for nominations and elections; the Chair encouraged members of Council to consider nominating qualified individuals for this position.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

HENDERSON/ZIOLA: That the agenda be adopted with the addition of Item 11, an item of Other Business which concerns the University Calendar. This item was circulated at the door at the request of Professor Messier on behalf of the faculty in the Department of Biology.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2007

MESSIER/RICHARDSON: That the minutes of November 15, 2007 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No further business was identified as arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

The President began with a comment on the importance of the role of Provost at the University of Saskatchewan and his delight at the appointment of Dr. Fairbairn in this position.

He also remarked on the university's relationship and recent contacts with officials of the new provincial government. Discussions over the past several years with the government have been very cordial and productive, and the President expressed his hope that this relationship will continue to be a strong and open one.

The President drew members' attention to the success of the *Thinking the World of our Future* campaign, as outlined in his report. The original target of \$100M has been met and surpassed, and it is likely that total contributions will exceed \$150M by the time the campaign closes. The President asked that the record show his appreciation for the excellent work of Vice President Heather Magotiaux and her team, and for the generous support of the University's community.

There were questions about the nature of the issues that the University administration has discussed with the Mayor and City Commissioner and about the University's position in the Macleans ranking and other measures of institutional success.

In his response to a question about the search process leading up to the appointment of the new Provost, the President indicated that a search committee had been struck in accordance with the approved Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators, and that as called for in those procedures, the committee was large and broadly based and included representation from the General Academic Assembly. The Procedures allow for the committee to adopt its own process. Some of the shortlisted candidates expressed sensitivity about having their identity known to the broader public; the committee therefore decided not to require public presentations from the shortlisted candidates but rather to interview them in confidence prior to making its decision. The President noted that this approach is becoming more common at Canadian universities.

The President also responded to a question about the root causes of the CUPE 1975 strike, and about what Council can do to promote and encourage institutional success in the future. He assured Council that the University's administration will be taking a very close look at the factors that led to the labour action; he also indicated that he would be prepared to report further to Council in this regard.

6. Report of the Acting Provost

Dr. Ernie Barber commended members of Council to his written report, and singled out a few items for further comment. The first of these was an expression of thanks to Dean Tom Wishart, who will be stepping down as Associate Vice President (Research) and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research as of the end of this month. Dr. Wishart will be returning to the department of Psychology as a professor, and will also be assisting the Provost's Office in matters relating to the coordination of international

activities. Dr. Barber also acknowledged and congratulated Cecilia Reynolds on her appointment to a second term as Dean of Education.

The Provost also commented on the timing of the development of the second Integrated Plan, indicating that he hopes to bring a draft version to Council in the spring and the final version in May 2008. He reminded Council members of the survey on University-level initiatives which can be found on the Integrated Planning web site and which should be completed by January 15.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

USSU President James Pepler presented the report on behalf of the USSU. He commented on the difficulties experienced by many students during the course of the recent strike and reported that the USSU is urging the Administration to initiate a plan for reimbursement to students for the inconvenience caused to them. He also spoke briefly on other matters included in his report, including Place Riel renovations, the Roundtable on Academic Materials, and the USSU submission to the Integrated Planning Process. Finally, he indicated that the USSU has developed a survey tool and is able to survey students on a variety of issues.

7.2 Report from GSA

There was no report from the Graduate Students' Association.

8. Bylaws Committee Report

Barry Ziola presented the report as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.

8.1 Change to Council Bylaw Part One, III, 3(h)& (i) re Vice Chair of Council

ZIOLA/CROWE: That Council approve the following amendments to Council Bylaw Part One, III, 3(h) and (i):

- (h) That the Nominations Committee will nominate a member of Council to serve as Vice-Chairperson; and
- (i) That the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will normally hold office for a period of two years unless removed by a vote of 2/3 of the members of Council.

CARRIED

9. Nominations Committee Report

Klaas Post presented the report as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

9.1 College of Education Representative for Scholarships and Awards Committee

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the nomination of Lynn Lemisko, Department of Curriculum Studies, as the College of Education representative on the Scholarships & Awards Committee of Council, to June 30, 2010.

CARRIED

10. Planning and Priorities Committee Report

John Rigby presented the reports for information as Chair of the Committee. He began by expressing appreciation to the Chair for his work on behalf of Council, and his best wishes to Dr. Fairbairn as he takes up the role of Provost next July.

The following items were received for information:

Report on Major Capital Projects

Update on Undergraduate Platforms

Professor Rigby also gave a brief update on the status of the College Programs Review Committee's review of unit plans from academic and administrative units.

11. Other Business

Publication and Distribution of the University Calendar

An item was circulated at the door at the request of Professor Messier on behalf of his colleagues in the Department of Biology. The document is the record of a motion passed unanimously at a Departmental meeting held on December 13, 2007, and requests a review by University Council on the manner in which the decision was made to cease publishing a print version of the University calendar, and consultation with the General Academic Assembly.

The Chair suggested that these matters be referred to a Council Committee for review and advice. He invited Professor Messier to speak to the motions, and also invited any other Council members who wish to speak on this matter to do so. Professor Messier explained the reasons for the measures being proposed. Alison Renny, Assistant Dean in the Edwards School of Business, indicated that this matter has already been put on the agenda of an *ad hoc* committee of Assistant and Associate Deans and that David Hannah has agreed to meet with them to help identify solutions to this problem.

Another member commented on the difficulty of finding the academic schedule on the University's web site. One member recommended a usability study for the University calendar.

The Chair indicated that this matter will be referred to a Council committee for consideration.

12. Question Period

There were no further questions.

13. Adjournment and Next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting is at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, January 24, 2008 in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.